Hanna-Mary Cook

Mr. Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship - 3A

16 April 2019

**Mentor Visit Assessment 2**

**Mentor:** Dr. Jamie Johnson

**Profession:** Lecturer

**Location:** Video

**Date:** March 28th, 2019

**Time:** 1:40 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.

**Assessment:**

The second mentor visit with Dr. Johnson was difficult to set up due to our conflicting schedules, so we ended up having a video mentor visit in order to still have time to discuss the next steps of my Final Product. Dr. Johnson and I discussed the research that I had completed so far for the Final Product study, and she told me how to go about collecting data and interviewing for the next stage of the study.

At the beginning of the visit, I shared the main research article that I am using for my study with Dr. Johnson. Her feedback was that the study in the article was based on sociology, compared to my proposed focus in anthropology. In order to make the study that I am organizing more anthropological in nature, Dr. Johnson suggested that I add more qualitative data collection to the study in order to paint a broader picture of the environment of parental engagement at the games that I observe. We decided that informal interviews with parents before or after the games will be the best way to accomplish this. Following the decision to conduct interviews during the observations, Dr. Johnson and I discussed the right structure for interview questions. Open-ended questions will be the most beneficial in this scenario because they allow the participant being interviewed to disclose as much or as little information as they are willing to.

Another thing that Dr. Johnson and I discussed during the mentor visit was the level of secrecy that I should keep up around the participants of the study during observations. Much to my surprise, Dr. Johnson suggested that I go to the coach at the beginning of the game and share what I am doing and also tell any parents who ask exactly what I am studying. This was surprising to me, since I was concerned that by sharing the purpose of my study, I would compromise the validity of my study. If I were a parent and was told that my comments were being recorded, even anonymously, I would most likely change the way that I was behaving, which would skew the researchers results. Due to the aspect of integrity and ethics, I do understand why revealing my intentions is necessary, but I am still nervous about having inaccurate results due to this.

Dr. Johnson’s last piece of advice was that it would be helpful to the study if I record observations about the environment of the games. This includes the weather conditions, how many fans are in the stands, the time of day of the game, the location, and the general mood of the fans. Recording general data such as these factors will add to the amount of qualitative data included in the study and will make it possible to compare reactions based on external influences.

Overall, touching base with Dr. Johnson before moving into the next phase of my Final Product was helpful, and I appreciate the advice that she offered in order to make the study more anthropologically focused. Following our discussion, I feel more prepared and confident in beginning to attend baseball and softball games for data collection.